



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PREFATORY NOTICE.

Various circumstances have retarded the publication of this volume, which was intended to have appeared in the preceding year. Measures have been taken to prevent a similar delay in future. The Society have materials on hand with which they hope soon to begin the publication of the fourth volume of this series.

Since the publication of our catalogue in 1824, the library of the society has been considerably increased: so much so, that an additional catalogue has been ordered to be made, which is now in preparation. Our cabinet also has been enlarged by numerous contributions, some of which are very valuable. Among them may be particularized the collections of Mexican minerals and antiquities, for which we are indebted to the munificence of our fellow member, Mr Poinsett, late minister from this country to the United Mexican States,—the additions which have been made to those collections by another of our members, Mr William H. Keating,—and the complete series of the various earths and fossils developed in the great excavation of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, which we have received from Andrew Alfred Dexter, Esq., one of the engineers of that work.

In the course of the last five years, death has deprived the society of many of its most valuable members. At home we have to lament the loss of Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and De Witt Clinton, three of the greatest men that this country has produced: next to them we must place our late

venerated president William Tilghman, Dr Adam Seybert, Mr François Adrian Vanderkemp, Mr Charles Wilson Peale, Dr Samuel Brown, Dr Stephen Elliott, the founder of the Philosophical Society of Charleston, South Carolina, and Professor John D. Godman; whose deaths have left a void in this society which will with difficulty be filled.

Among those of our foreign members, of whom death has deprived the learned world as well as ourselves, we particularly notice that illustrious friend and patron of science, Count Nicholas Romanzoff, Nicholas Fuss, Sir Humphry Davy, Count Lanjuinais, Duke de Liancourt, Bishop Munter of Copenhagen, Thunberg, Vater; whose names are celebrated throughout America as well as Europe. We have also lost Salazar of Colombia, Stockler of Lisbon, and Torombert of Lyons,—all more or less distinguished in the literary and scientific world. At the same time, other names have been added to our list, of men whom the society are proud to reckon among their associates.

The contents of this volume partly belong to the physical and partly to the moral sciences. In this the society has followed the example of several learned societies in Europe, and particularly of the Royal Academy of Berlin.